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Norman H. Bangerter
Governor

Suzanne Dandoy, M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director

January 22, 1987
538-6146

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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Mr. Niels B. Haubold
Manager of Mines
UMETCO Minerals Corporation
P. O. Box 1029
Grand Junction, Co. 81502

RE: Wilson/Silverbell Discharge

Dear Mr. Haubold:

We have completed review of preliminary plans and information submitted to date, and conducted an on-site inspection of existing facilities at the Wilson/Silverbell mine site. We request that you proceed with final design plans for disposal of the discharge water from the mine. We offer the following comments relative to the final design:

1. We recommend that the design be for a total containment evaporation pond without enhanced evaporation through sprinklers.
2. Climatic information used should be from the nearest weather station with similar site conditions (i.e. elevation, exposure, etc.). We feel that the Monticello weather station best satisfies these conditions; however, we are willing to review with you any data from another station which you feel is more representative.
3. Due to the significant difference in elevation between the Wilson/Silverbell site and Montrose or Uravan, we cannot accept the proposed evaporation rate without further substantiating evidence.
4. Results of tests performed on material proposed for use as a liner indicate a laboratory permeability of approximately 1×10^{-6} cm. per second. This is the desired minimum permeability of the liner in place. We recommend additional samples of the lining material be collected and analyzed to assure this condition can be met.
5. In addition to the details and specifications for construction, the following information will be required for our review of the final plans.
 - a. A complete chemical analysis of the discharge water.

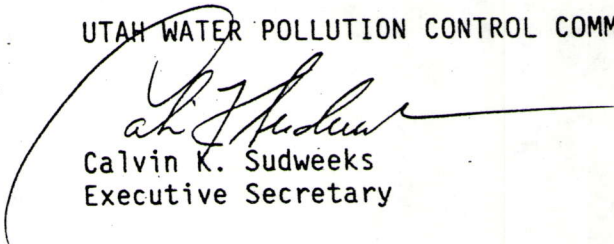
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- b. A geological cross section which identifies major formations and aquifers at the proposed pond site.
- c. An overall site plan identifying location of drainages, structures, and existing wells relative to the proposed evaporation ponds.
- d. A map which identifies the location of the borrow area for the clay liner.
- e. Evidence of ownership of the property upon which the pond is to be located.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact David Ariotti at (801) 637-3671.

Sincerely,

UTAH WATER POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE



Calvin K. Sudweeks
Executive Secretary

KLB:mw

cc: David Ariotti, Southeast District Engineer.
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

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